

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An automated voice generator for generating a voice output in the pronunciation of a second language corresponding to a text item in a different first language, comprising:

means for automatically converting translating the spelling of an original text item in the first language into a new text item by:

(i) identifying a each character in the original text item that is not included in the alphabet of the second language, and

(ii) replacing only said each identified character in the original text item with a character or string in the alphabet of the second language having a pronunciation equivalent or similar to the pronunciation of the identified character in the first language; and

a text-to-speech engine that supports the second language and not the first language, means for generating voice by pronouncing the new text item according to the pronunciation of the second language.

2. (Original) The voice generator according to claim 1, wherein the original text item comprises place name text items assigned to respective places.

3. (Previously Presented) The voice generator according to claim 1, wherein the first language character and the second language character or string are included in a place name text item representing a place name.

4. (Previously Presented) The voice generator according to claim 1, wherein the first language character is in French and the second language character or string is in English.

5. (Previously Presented) The voice generator according to claim 1, wherein the first language character is in Spanish and the second language character or string is in English.

6. (Previously Presented) The voice generator according to claim 1, wherein the first language character is in German and the second language character or string is in English.

7. (Currently Amended) An automated voice generator for generating a voice output in the pronunciation of a second language corresponding to a text item in a different first language, comprising:

means for automatically converting translating the spelling of an abbreviated original text item in the first language into a new text item by:

(i) replacing the abbreviated original text item with a full text item in the first language,

(ii) identifying a each character in the full text item that is not included in the alphabet of the second language, and

(iii) replacing only said each identified character in the full text item with a character or string in the alphabet of the second language having a pronunciation equivalent or similar to the pronunciation of the identified character in the first language; and

a text-to-speech engine that supports the second language and not the first language means for generating voice by pronouncing the new text item according to the pronunciation of the second language.

8. (Previously Presented) The voice generator according to claim 7, wherein the first language character is in French and the second language character or string is in English.

9. (Previously Presented) The voice generator according to claim 7, wherein the first language character is in Spanish and the second language character or string is in English.

10. (Previously Presented) The voice generator according to claim 7, wherein the first language character is in German and the second language character or string is in English.

11. (Currently Amended) An automated method for generating a voice output in the pronunciation of a second language corresponding to a text item in a different first language, comprising:

automatically converting translating the spelling of an original text item in the first language into a new text item by:

(i) identifying a each character in the original text item that is not included in the alphabet of the second language, and

(ii) replacing only said each identified character in the original text item with a character or string in the alphabet of the second language having a pronunciation equivalent or similar to the pronunciation of the identified character in the first language; and

generating voice by pronouncing the new text item according to the pronunciation of the second language, where the voice is generated by a text-to-speech engine that supports the second language and not the first language.

12. (Previously Presented) The method for generating voice according to claim 11, wherein the first language character and the second language character or string are included in a place name text item representing a place name.

13. (Previously Presented) The method for generating voice according to claim 12, wherein the first language character is in French and the second language character or string is in English.

14. (Previously Presented) The method for generating voice according to claim 12, wherein the first language character is in Spanish and the second language character or string is in English.

15. (Previously Presented) The method for generating voice according to claim 12, wherein the first language character is in German and the second language character or string is in English.

16. (Currently Amended) A navigation apparatus for guiding users, comprising:

a map database for storing geographic information containing a place name text item representing each place name;

means for reading out the place name text item from the map database;

means for automatically converting translating the spelling of the place name text item in a first language into a new text item by:

(i) identifying a each character in the place name text item that is not included in the alphabet of a second language, and

(ii) replacing only said each identified character in the place name text item with a character or string in the alphabet of the second language having a pronunciation equivalent or similar to the pronunciation of the identified character in the first language; and

a text-to-speech engine that supports the second language and not the first language means for generating voice by pronouncing the new text item according to the pronunciation of the second language.

17. (Currently Amended) The navigation apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the means for converting translating refers to replacement rules identified in a rule table that associates a character in the first language that is not included in the alphabet of the second language with a character or string in the alphabet of the second language having an equivalent or similar pronunciation.

18. (Currently Amended) The navigation apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the means for converting translating operates between any of a plurality of

first languages and the second language, and the text-to-speech engine supports the second language and not any of the plurality of first languages.